

Remarks

Claims 49 and 53 have been amended, claims 1-48, 52, and 59 have been canceled, and new claims 60-78 have been added. Claims 49-51, 53-58, and 60-78 are currently pending in the instant application.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Poinvil for discussing the outstanding Office Action, prior art, and various pending and proposed claims during a telephonic interview with Applicants' undersigned representative and Jason Kraus on December 13, 2007. Applicants also thank the Examiner for recognizing the patentability of previously pending (now canceled) claim 52 and previously proposed claim 84 (now pending independent claim 70 as listed above).

As a result of the phone conference, Applicants have amended claim 49 to incorporate the limitations of claim 52 and further amended the remaining claims to depend from either amended independent claim 49 or new independent claim 70.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 13, 14, 16-17, 20-28, 30, 31, 33-38, and 49-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 7,062,442 ("Suhy").

Because claims 1-48 have been canceled, the rejection of those claims is rendered moot. In addition, as recognized by the Examiner during the above interview, Suhy does not teach or suggest the invention of amended claim 49. More specifically, Suhy fails to teach or suggest a system for managing a plurality of assets "wherein the access of the user to the asset information is chosen from at least one of the group consisting of access solely to asset information relating to assets at a particular site, access solely to asset information relating to assets of a particular type, access solely to asset information relating to assets for which the user has a service or maintenance contract, access solely to asset information relating to assets which are by a warranty, access solely to asset information relating to assets for which the user has a work order, access solely to asset information relating to asset costs, and access solely to asset information relating to asset usage."

Because claims 50-51 depend directly or indirectly from claim 49 and incorporate all the limitations of claim 49, the above argument obviates the basis for this ground of rejection. Thus, claims 50-51 are not anticipated by Suhy. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 10, 29, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suhy. Further, claims 5, 11, 18, 19, 39-45, and 53-59 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suhy in view of the Dilger article.

Because claims 1-48 and 59 have been canceled, the rejection of any of those claims is rendered moot. Further, as recognized by the Examiner during the above interview, neither Suhy nor Dilger teach or suggest the invention of amended claim 49. That is, neither Suhy nor Dilger, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a system for managing a plurality of assets “wherein the access of the user to the asset information is chosen from at least one of the group consisting of access solely to asset information relating to assets at a particular site, access solely to asset information relating to assets of a particular type, access solely to asset information relating to assets for which the user has a service or maintenance contract, access solely to asset information relating to assets which are by a warranty, access solely to asset information relating to assets for which the user has a work order, access solely to asset information relating to asset costs, and access solely to asset information relating to asset usage.”

In addition, because claims 53-58 depend directly or indirectly from claim 49, and incorporate all the limitations of claim 49, the above argument obviates the basis for this ground of rejection. Thus, claims 53-58 are not unpatentable over Suhy in view of Dilger. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 60-69 depend directly or indirectly from claim 49 and incorporate all the limitations of claim 49, and thus claims 60-69 are patentable over Suhy and Dilger, alone or in combination, as discussed above and as recognized by Examiner Poinvil during the above interview.

In addition, as also recognized by the Examiner during the above interview, neither Suhy nor Dilger, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention of claim 70. More specifically, neither Suhy nor Dilger teach or suggest a system for managing a plurality of assets comprising “a first user access level programmed into the central processor, the first user access level comprising access to all of the service provider and asset information, wherein a first user type has access to the first user access level” and “a second user access level programmed into the central processor, the second user access level comprising access to the service provider information and the asset information for predetermined sites, wherein a second user type has access to the second user access level.”

Further, because claims 71-78 depend directly or indirectly from claim 70, and incorporate all the limitations of claim 70, claims 71-78 are patentable over Suhy in view of Dilger.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 49-51, 53-58, and 60-78 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is respectfully requested. Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at (612) 766-8739.

This response is being filed on or before January 5, 2008, along with a Petition for a Three Month Extension and an appropriate fee, thus making it a timely response. Applicants believe no additional fees are due. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge fees which may be required, including extension fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-0029.

Respectfully submitted,
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